

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for interacting with a user over a peer-to-peer network comprising:
receiving a file from a user via a third party;
receiving with the file an alias identifying the user and a content rating from the user, the content rating providing an indication of the user's rating of the file;
storing in the third party identity information about the user in association with the alias;
and
linking the alias to a valid legal identity and financial account while maintaining control and privacy over the valid legal identity and the financial account.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user can select one or more information elements within identity information that can be sent along with the alias.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the one or more information elements include one or more of the following: an email address, a name, a mailing address, a telephone number, and a social security number.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the one or more information elements include one or more of the following: a bank account number, a credit card number, an age, a birth date, income information, employment information, purchasing preference information, and an education history.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for interacting with a user over a peer-to-peer network comprising:

- receiving a file from a user via a third party;
- receiving with the file an alias identifying the user;
- storing in the third party identity information about the user in association with the alias;
- linking the alias to a valid legal identity and financial account while maintaining control and privacy over the valid legal identity and the financial account; and
- aggregating by the third party a content ranking with a plurality of other content rankings from other users and making this available to others without identification of the users or aliases.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- acting as an intermediary between the user and other users to protect the privacy of the user and to enable financial or marketing transactions to occur between the user and another user or company.

8-20. (Canceled)